

Local Spelthorne Partnership

Assembly 2007

Report



**Local
Spelthorne
Partnership**

Together, improving Spelthorne.

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Local Spelthorne Partnership Assembly 2007

Executive summary

This report summarises the issues raised at the Local Spelthorne Partnership (LSP) Assembly on 22 January 2007. Detailed information from the day is included in the appendices.

Over 140 people attended the Assembly. They were mixed in terms of sector, age, gender, ethnic background and ability. Electronic voting equipment was used to collect equalities monitoring information and delegates' satisfaction and priorities.

Delegates discussed priorities under each of the Community Plan themes and developed proposals for projects to address the issues. These will be considered by the thematic partnerships within the LSP and feedback will be provided. Overall, delegates considered the themes of Safer, Young People's, Healthy and Thriving Spelthorne to be the most important in the Community Plan.

Delegates were generally satisfied with the day, although the LSP Executive will be considering a number of suggestions in order to improve the next event.

Introduction

Every year the wider body of the Local Spelthorne Partnership (LSP) meets to discuss partnership issues. This includes looking back at achievements over the previous year and forward to priorities for the coming year.

This report summarises the proceedings of the day as well as the key outputs. Notes from the round table discussions are included as appendices. The PowerPoint slides from the day are available to download from the LSP's website www.spelweb.com.

Overview of the LSP

The LSP is the local strategic partnership for the Borough. It acts as a “partnership of partnerships”, bringing together much of the joint work that happens in the area. The LSP is made up of representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The focus of the LSP's work is the Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015, which sets out how partners intend to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of Spelthorne. The Plan has targets relating to the following six themes:

- Safer Spelthorne
- Young People's Spelthorne
- Getting Around Spelthorne
- Healthy Spelthorne
- Thriving Spelthorne
- Learning Spelthorne

The targets in the Plan are intended to fulfil the LSP's vision, which is “to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community”

The structure of the LSP has three main components:

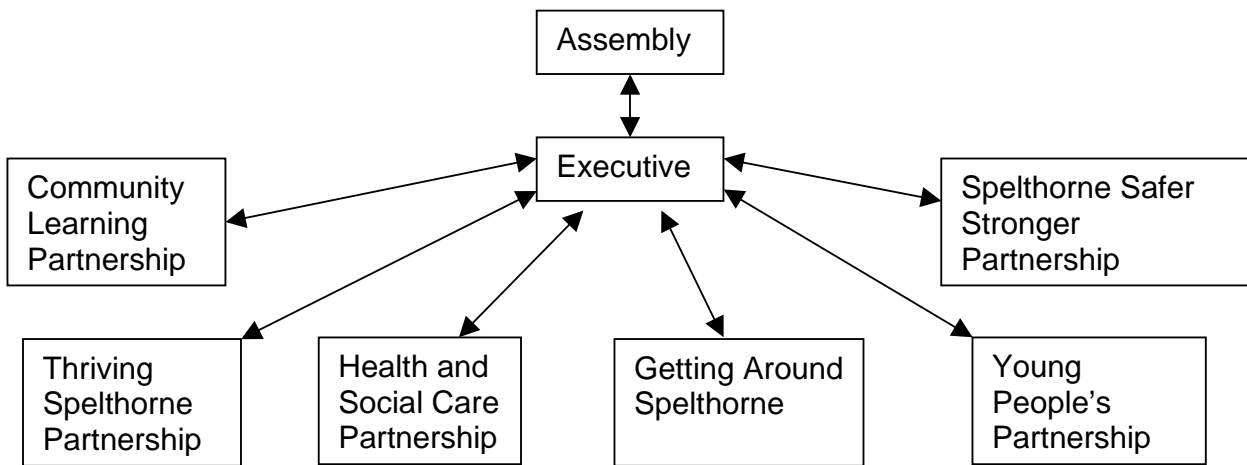
The Executive – this group consists of representatives from around 25 organisations, who monitor overall progress on the Community Plan.

Thematic Partnerships – these are each responsible for developing and monitoring an action plan dealing with a particular theme of the Community Plan. These are:

- Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP)
- Young People's Partnership (YPP)
- Spelthorne Health and Social Care Partnership
- Thriving Spelthorne Partnership
- Spelthorne Community Learning Partnership

There is currently no thematic partnership relating to the Getting Around Spelthorne theme of the Plan, although the LSP Executive is coordinating partnership work in this area. Surrey County Council takes the lead on the targets under Getting Around Spelthorne.

The Assembly – this is a wider body that meets every year to discuss partnership issues, such as ideas for future projects, and monitors overall progress and success.



Aim of the day

The day was intended to fulfil three purposes. The first was to provide information to delegates on the partnership work that is currently happening in Spelthorne. The second was to give the wider community of those living and working in the Borough the opportunity to input to the work of the LSP through identifying priorities for action and developing solutions to problems. The final purpose of the day was to provide the opportunity for networking and improved communication between people working in the local area.

Proceedings of the day

The LSP Assembly 2007 took place on Monday 22 January at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines.

Information provided in advance

Delegates were sent two documents in advance of the day, to provide background information and to allow more time on the day for looking to the future. The first document was an update on progress and achievements made under each Community Plan theme (see Appendix A). The second was a report on quality of life statistics for the Borough, which provided additional information on how Spelthorne is performing on a variety of indicators (see Appendix B).

Agenda

The full agenda for the day is given in Appendix C. The key sessions during the day were:

- Local Spelthorne Partnership: summary of the past year
- Update on key LSP projects (Stanwell New Start and transport issues)
- Update on Community Plan themes
- Round table discussions 1 – what still needs to be addressed?
- Future challenges for Spelthorne
- Round table discussions 2 – what can be done to address the priorities?

Electronic voting

Electronic voting equipment was used to survey delegates for equalities monitoring, evaluation of the day and priority issues. Each delegate was given a voting pad which they used to indicate their response to a number of choices given as part of a PowerPoint presentation. The results of each vote were immediately displayed on screen for delegates to see. It was hoped that this would provide a more interactive experience for delegates. It also increased the return rate: last year only 36% of attendees returned the equalities monitoring questionnaire, whereas this year an average of 79% of delegates responded to these questions.

However, due to a technical fault, the results for three questions did not register and these have been excluded from this report (the questions related to number of Assemblies attended, age and satisfaction with facilities).

Delegates

It is important that the Assembly is as representative as possible of the wider Spelthorne community.

Approximately 140 people from public, private, voluntary and community organisations attended the event. This was significantly higher than the previous year when only 80 people attended. The increase in numbers could also be due to:

- Advertising the date well in advance in the LSP's first newsletter in August 2006
- Advertising to voluntary organisations through the Voluntary Action in Spelthorne newsletter
- Inviting residents' associations
- Advertising to the general public through Spelthorne Borough Council's notice boards
- Increasing knowledge of the LSP among local agencies

Over 60 individual organisations were represented (see Appendix D for a full list). The sectors that individual delegates represented are as follows:

Sector	Proportion of individual delegates
Public	37%
Private	15%
Voluntary	28%
Community	20%

Table 1: Sectors represented

In terms of the gender of attendees, there were more women (60%) than men (40%). Although accurate information for age was not obtained through the electronic voting, there were 12 representatives from the Spelthorne Youth Council in attendance, which was a significant increase on last year. The ethnic origin of delegates was also more diverse (although it is not known whether this was an actual increase or due to higher confidence among delegates in giving responses using the electronic voting rather than a paper questionnaire). The day attracted both those with and without disabilities.

Event staff

The Assembly was coordinated by Spelthorne Borough Council. Staff from a number of local organisations helped on the day, particularly by facilitating the round table discussions. Master of ceremonies was Geoff Chilton, former Interim Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council.

Local Spelthorne Partnership: summary of the past year

Brian Harris (Assistant Chief Executive, Spelthorne Borough Council) gave an update on the key developments that have happened within the Partnership over the last year.

Action following last year's Assembly

The LSP Executive met following the 2006 Assembly and selected a number of project proposals that it wished to monitor closely; the others were referred to the relevant thematic partnerships. Of those selected, Beyond Neighbourhood Watch and developing a partnership approach to transport are being taken forward. Activities are already taking place regarding safety at railway stations. A mobile youth café was not feasible but youth worker posts are being funded in areas where there are not many youth facilities. The LSP Executive also decided that it would be beneficial to look at Stanwell as a particular area of the Borough. The aim is to join up all the work going on in the area to ensure that it is coordinated.

Community Plan performance

Update sheets sent to delegates before the Assembly show that good progress is being made, although there have been some difficult areas. The targets are set for 2007 and need to be reviewed next year. Initial thoughts are that the number of targets should be reduced to enable the LSP to concentrate better on fewer issues.

Residents' associations' representatives

The LSP Executive has held an election for the two residents' positions on the group. Residents' associations were asked to send in nominations for the north and south of the Borough. A vote then took place and two new representatives have been elected.

Local government white paper

LSPs featured strongly in the recent local government white paper, "Strong and prosperous communities". For example:

- Community strategies will be renamed "sustainable community strategies" and more information on progress will be made available to residents.
- The sustainable community strategy should have regard to the local development framework.
- New statutory partnerships for health and well-being will be created to enable local authorities and primary care trusts to achieve an integrated approach to delivering both local government and NHS priorities.
- Health and well-being partnerships will sit underneath the LSP along with the crime and disorder reduction partnership and children's trust.

Update on key LSP projects

Presentations were given to update delegates on two key partnership projects.

Stanwell New Start

Sue Sturgeon, Strategic Director (Support), Spelthorne Borough Council.

A wide range of initiatives in Stanwell are being coordinated and addressed as a partnership project through the LSP. This includes a major redevelopment of social housing owned by A2 Housing Group. The redevelopment is needed to bring the housing up to the decent homes standard and will also meet the need for extra care housing and make use of the open space at Holywell Way, which is currently misused. The intention is that local residents will help shape the

design of the redevelopment. Plans include mixed tenure, “Secure by Design” properties. Other initiatives include a new health centre/library/community café, a skills centre, a children’s centre and police facilities.

Transport issues

Nigel Lynn, Strategic Director (Community), Spelthorne Borough Council.

The LSP has been examining transport-related issues that would benefit from a partnership approach. Those identified include improving access to Shopmobility from Staines bus station, addressing safety/fear of crime at railway stations and the lack of youth transport. Partners have already collaborated to produce a revised edition of the Accessible Transport Guide, which provides information on how to get around the Borough, particularly for the old, young and disabled, and with a focus on access to local health facilities.

Update on Community Plan themes

Presentations were made on each of the Community Plan themes, looking forward to plans for the following year. Delegates also heard about the new housing strategy for Spelthorne. Please see Appendix A for detailed information on progress made so far on addressing the priorities for each of the themes.

Safer Spelthorne

Tim Kita, Head of Communications and Community Safety, Spelthorne Borough Council.

The Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP) has seen mixed performance regarding its targets for crime reduction. Priorities for 2007/08 will be anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, vehicle crime, violent crime, drug crime and community confidence.

Young People’s Spelthorne

Vikki Radford, Youth Officer, Spelthorne Borough Council.

Sox Ghosal and Grace Millard, Spelthorne Youth Council.

The Young People’s Partnership (YPP) and Spelthorne Youth Council intend to build on the successful projects run in 2006 – for example, intergenerational partnerships, the youth café in Staines, the Youth Awards and disability sports club. The Youth Council is now responsible for distributing the new Youth Opportunities Fund. There are also plans to establish a junior Youth Council.

Getting Around Spelthorne

Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos, Chairman, Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne.

Activities for next year will include increasing the number of school travel plans, working to improve traffic flow in Staines town centre and investigating the feasibility of controlled parking zones in Staines.

Healthy Spelthorne

Anna Raleigh, Assistant Director of Public Health (North Surrey), Surrey PCT.

The Health and Social Care Partnership is currently examining its role and how it links to the community health forums and other partners. It plans to focus on tackling smoking, obesity, sexual health and supporting vulnerable groups.

Thriving Spelthorne

Nigel Lynn, Strategic Director (Community), Spelthorne Borough Council.

There are many elements that make up the jigsaw of Thriving Spelthorne. Two challenging priorities are promoting the local economy and community cohesion. Both are difficult to measure and will be looked at by the Thriving Spelthorne Partnership over the next year.

Spelthorne Housing Strategy

Greg Halliwell, Housing Strategy Officer, Spelthorne Borough Council.

Spelthorne Borough Council is conducting an annual review of its housing strategy, which will include public consultation. There are many issues that need to be addressed, such as high property prices, a lack of private sector properties and the need for housing for disabled people.

Learning Spelthorne

Brian Harris, Assistant Chief Executive, Spelthorne Borough Council.

Key activities for the Community Learning Partnership in 2007/08 will be its annual Family Learning Day, the Bridge Project and the community garden at Stanwell Fields School. The proposed merger of Spelthorne and Brooklands Colleges will also be an important event next year.

Round table discussions 1 – what still needs to be addressed?

Prior to the event, delegates were asked to choose a theme of the Community Plan to discuss. The number of discussion groups per theme was as follows:

- Safer Spelthorne – 3 groups
- Young People’s Spelthorne – 3 groups
- Getting Around Spelthorne – 1 group
- Healthy Spelthorne – 3 groups
- Thriving Spelthorne – 2 groups
- Learning Spelthorne – 2 groups

During the first discussion session, delegates were asked to consider whether the targets in the Community Plan are appropriate and whether any others should be added. The groups selected the top three priorities as well as three issues that they would discuss during the second discussion session. They also considered what issues should be considered in Stanwell in relation to the Community Plan theme in question.

Priorities

The notes from the groups are attached in Appendix E, however the priority issues for each theme are shown below in Table 2.

Community Plan theme	Table	Priority issues
Safer Spelthorne	1	1. Fear of crime 2. Anti-social behaviour 3. Anti-social driving
	2	1. Burglary 2. Anti-social behaviour 3. Woundings
	3	1. Reduce overall rate of crime 2. Feeling safe 3. Activities for youths

Young People's Spelthorne	4	1. Consultation/communication 2. Affordable play schemes 3. Health information
	5	1. Transport 2. More activities 3. Access to health advice
	6	1. Transport 2. Quality of play 3. Safety
Getting Around Spelthorne	7	1. Public transport forum 2. Improved traffic flow 3. Parking
Healthy Spelthorne	8	1. Mental health 2. Maintaining health and independence of older people 3. Carers
	9	1. Substance misuse 2. Older people 3. Healthy lifestyle
	10	1. Older people 2. Carers 3. Support for families
Thriving Spelthorne	11	1. Housing 2. Community cohesion 3. Waste
	12	1. Housing 2. Waste/air quality 3. Local economy
Learning Spelthorne	13	1. Information, advice, guidance 2. Vocational learning 3. Premises
	14	1. Vocational learning 2. Basic skills level 2 3. Children's centre to provide outreach

Table 2: Priority issues identified

These priority issues and the other comments in Appendix E will be sent to the thematic partnership associated with each theme of the Community Plan so that they can consider what may be done to address them in partnership. The priorities will also be used to inform the review of the Community Plan, which may result in a reduction of targets.

Idea boards

Delegates were able to contribute their opinions on any theme, irrespective of their chosen discussion group, using ideas boards. Contributions made have been included in Appendix F and will also be considered by the thematic partnerships.

Stanwell New Start

Although not all groups had time to consider Stanwell in relation to their Community Plan theme, a number of comments were made. These will be passed on to the Stanwell New Start steering group to consider.

Future challenges for Spelthorne

Roberto Tambini, Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council, gave a presentation on some of the main issues likely to affect Spelthorne over the next year.

Stanwell New Start

As already discussed earlier in the day, this is a major partnership project.

Alternate weekly waste collection

Prompted by the need to increase recycling rates in the Borough and the lack of landfill sites for waste, Spelthorne Borough Council is intending to switch to an alternate weekly, twin bin system. This would see refuse collected one week and recycling collected the next week. Residents will be issued with two wheelie bins ready for the scheme to begin in the autumn.

Further regeneration of Staines town centre

Bridge Street car park in Staines is currently under used and is to be redeveloped for housing, including some affordable and extra care homes. The Elmsleigh Centre has already undergone refurbishment and further improvements are planned. Work to create bigger retail units, a new bus station and new residential units is expected to start in January 2008.

Round table discussions 2 – what can be done to address the priorities?

During this session, delegates discussed possible solutions to the issues they raised during the first group discussion. They were encouraged to be as practical as possible when developing ideas for projects and to suggest who would be involved, when and where it would take place as well as how it would be funded.

The detailed project proposals developed by the groups are given in Appendix G. A brief description of the ideas is given in Table 3 below.

Community Plan theme	Table	Name/description of proposal
Safer Spelthorne	1	1. Fear of crime education 2. Dangerous driving education and enforcement 3. Reducing anti-social behaviour
	2	1. Raising awareness of burglary 2. Tackling the cause of anti-social behaviour 3. Highlighting the effect and consequences of assaults
	3	1. Diversity awareness campaign 2. Mobile CCTV 3. Places to go, things to do
Young People's Spelthorne	4	1. Roadshows 2. Future houses, small starts
	5	1. Youth bus 2. Project fun (activities) 3. Helping your health
	6	1. Yellow bus 2. Playground project (facilities) 3. The Local – youth cafés

Getting Around Spelthorne	7	1. Transport forum 2. Tackling traffic flow especially school run 3. Parking
Healthy Spelthorne	8	1. Improving general self-esteem 2. Support for carers 3. Older people (activities)
	9	1. Curb your addiction road show 2. GP sign posting 3. Coordination on healthy lifestyles
	10	1. Carers support 2. Sign posting information
Thriving Spelthorne	11	1. Attitude to vulnerable people 2. Working together for community cohesion 3. Promoting recycling
	12	1. Improved elderly housing 2. Education on waste 3. Quality leisure opportunities for all
Learning Spelthorne	13	1. Community learning – helping access to information 2. Engaging employers in learning initiatives
	14	1. Distinguish between the needs of disaffected students and the vocational learning route and the specialist skills diploma route 2. Accommodation other than schools/colleges for the delivery of level 2 basic skills 3. Volunteer training

Table 3: Project proposals

These proposals will be passed on to the relevant thematic partnership to consider whether they are able to take them forward.

Cross-cutting issues

From the above list of proposals, it is clear that some cut across several Community Plan themes. For example, youth transport is relevant to both Young People's Spelthorne and Getting Around Spelthorne. It is therefore essential that the thematic partnerships join up where necessary to avoid duplication. The LSP Executive will also consider whether there are any particularly cross-cutting proposals that it should monitor, in order to benefit from the wide range of partners represented on that group.

Overall priorities

At the end of the day, delegates were asked to vote for the Community Plan theme, which they felt to be the most important. The results are shown in Table 4 below:

Community Plan theme	Proportion
Safer Spelthorne	24%
Young People's Spelthorne	22%
Getting Around Spelthorne	3%
Healthy Spelthorne	23%

Thriving Spelthorne	19%
Learning Spelthorne	8%
None – there is something more important not covered	2%

Table 4: Which Community Plan theme delegates thought to be the most important

The results should be considered with caution as they could be due to the type of people attending and their interests. However, it does indicate that the LSP could consider increasing the focus on the themes of Safer, Young People’s, Healthy and Thriving, with less focus on Getting Around and Learning. This would need to be considered more fully when the Community Plan is revised.

Evaluation of the day

Overall satisfaction levels with the day were as follows:

Level of satisfaction	Proportion
Very satisfied	22%
Fairly satisfied	58%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	13%
Fairly dissatisfied	3%
Very dissatisfied	4%

Table 5: Satisfaction ratings

Delegates were also asked if they would like to attend next year’s Assembly:

Would you like to attend next year’s Assembly?	Proportion
Yes	79%
Not sure	13%
No	8%

Table 6: Whether delegates would like to attend next year’s Assembly

The above results show that the majority of delegates were pleased with the day, although there are some that were not. Comments given in the evaluation forms are summarised below and given in full in Appendix H. The LSP needs to build on the positive aspects of the day and address the negative ones in order to increase satisfaction at next year’s event.

What worked well

In general, delegates felt that the day worked well because of:

- The variety of individuals and associations attending
- Good opportunity to network
- Useful to have a facilitator on the table
- Attendees interacted positively and there was good debate
- All age ranges were represented
- Well organised
- The programme ran on time and well run on the whole
- Good coverage of a vast range of topics
- Opinions sought
- We shared ideas
- We were able to have an input into suggestions

What did not work well

There were some areas in which delegates felt that the Assembly could improve. In general these were:

- There should be a chance for general questions from the floor
- Poor acoustics
- Later start – difficult to get here for 9.30
- Too much sitting and plenaries too long
- It could encourage more cross-communication of key priority areas
- Could be more opportunity for participant to network
- Long wait for coffee
- Slightly too big

Other comments

Other comments and suggestions included:

- Well done, let's talk more
- It would help if the tables could be labelled showing the category covered
- Need to ensure the new action plan has the support of the funding bodies before it is signed off
- It might be useful next year to include a time for bringing information for individual groups to raise awareness of what is provided already
- Alternate years for Assembly might be more appropriate as so many objectives/plans are long-term
- Should we have members of general public
- Regarding the electronic voting. Does it really work?
- The council could provide a sandwich lunch thereby saving the residents of Spelthorne some money

What happens next?

All of the comments and suggestions for the various themes of the Community Plan will be sent to the relevant thematic partnership to consider. Where possible, they will build them into their action plans. The LSP Executive will also review the output from the day at its team day in March and will consider whether it needs to lead on any specific projects.

Spelthorne Borough Council will review the issues regarding the structure and format of the day when working with the LSP Executive to plan next year's event.

The Assembly will receive feed back on progress on the issues raised, through a newsletter later in the year and at the next event.

Conclusion

The 2007 LSP Assembly provided members from across the Spelthorne community the opportunity to input into the work of the Partnership. Many issues were raised and possible solutions proposed. It is important that the thematic partnerships within the LSP commit to considering the proposals and providing feedback to the Assembly on what can and cannot be taken forward.